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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/816,438

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Philip R. Lehwalder

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09/25/2006

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EXAMINER

CAO, CHUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2115

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/816,438	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LEHWALDER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Chun Cao	<b>Art Unit</b> 2115	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                      | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                             | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/5/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.
2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The current title is imprecise.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (Yamamoto), JP publication no. 2002-236527<sup>1</sup>.

As per claim 1, Yamamoto teaches a method comprising:

selectively enabling or disabling outputs of voltage regulator controllers in an electronic appliance based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory [figures 1, 2; paragraphs 9-12 of the computer generated English translation].

As per claim 4, Official Notice is taken that the type of non-volatile memory is very well known in the computer art. Such as, Yamamoto inherently discloses at least one memory selected from the group consisting of read only memory (ROM), flash memory, battery-backed static random access memory (SRAM), and electrically

erasable programmable ROM (EEPROM) [fig. 1; paragraph 9 of the computer generated English translation].

As per claim 11, Yamamoto teaches the claimed method of steps. Therefore, Yamamoto teaches the claimed contents stored in a storage medium to carry out the method of steps.

5. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pappalardo et al. (Pappalardo), US publication no. 20040019814.

As per claim 1, Pappalardo teaches a method comprising:

selectively enabling or disabling outputs of voltage regulator controllers in an electronic appliance based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory [figure 2; paragraphs 0012, 0014, 0019].

As per claim 3, Pappalardo inherently teaches that the outputs of the voltage regulator controllers provide operating voltages to one or more components selected from the group consisting of a microprocessor, a chipset, a memory controller, a graphics controller, a system memory, an input/output (I/O) controller and an I/O device [paragraph 0003; figures 1, 2].

As per claim 7, Pappalardo discloses an electronic appliance [fig. 2], comprising:

a power supply; an electronic circuit board coupled with the power supply; and a sequencer engine coupled with the electronic circuit board, the sequencer engine to sequentially enable voltage regulator controllers on the electronic circuit board during a

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant in IDS filed on 12/5/05 cites Yamamoto.

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power up based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory [figures 1, 2; paragraphs 0012, 0014, 0019].

As per claim 9, Pappalardo discloses that the sequencer engine to sequentially disable voltage regulator controllers on the electronic circuit board during a power down based at least in part on settings stored in non-volatile memory [paragraphs 0012, 0014, 0019].

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pappalardo et al. (Pappalardo), US publication no. 20040019814 in view of Amin et al. (Amin), U.S. patent no. 6,333,650.

As per claim 2, Pappalardo does not explicitly teach that the setting stored in non-volatile memory comprises a series of delay times.

Amin teaches that the setting stored in non-volatile memory comprises a series of delay times assigned to voltage regulator controllers [col. 2, lines 36-41; col. 3, lines 45-50].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time the invention to combine the teachings of Pappalardo and Amin, the specify teachings of Amin stated

above would improve the reliability of the Pappalardo system by preventing concurrently enable the controllers.

As per claim 4, Official Notice is taken that the type of non-volatile memory is very well known in the computer art. Such as, Amin inherently discloses at least one memory selected from the group consisting of read only memory (ROM), flash memory, battery-backed static random access memory (SRAM), and electrically erasable programmable ROM (EEPROM) [col. 3, lines 48-50].

As to claims 5 and 10, Amin teaches of locking out a power supply until the voltage regulator controller outputs are stable [col. 1, lines 64-66].

As to claims 6 and 8, Amin teaches of retrieving delay times for a future power state change [col. 2, lines 36-41; col. 3, lines 45-50].

As to claims 11-15, Pappalardo and Amin together teach the claimed method of steps. Therefore, Pappalardo and Amin teach the claimed contents stored in a storage medium to carry out the method of steps.

As to claims 16-19 basically are the corresponding elements that are carried out the method of operating steps in claims 1-6. Accordingly, claims 16-19 are rejected for the same reason as set forth in claims 1-6.

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun Cao whose telephone number is 571-272-3664. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sep. 19 2006

  
**CHUN CAO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**